

INFORMATION REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Guatemala
SUBJECT Formation of New Guatemalan Political Party - PROG
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1. [Redacted]
2. On 1 June 1950, a manifesto was published by Victor Manuel Gutierrez, Isaias Ruiz Robles, Antonio Obando Sanchez, and Emilio Grajeda R., all prominent in the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CTG), and all of Communist sympathies. In the manifesto, Gutierrez and the others stated that they would constitute a committee of organization for a new party to be founded in Guatemala called the Partido Revolucionario Obrero de Guatemala (PROG). The six-thousand-word manifesto was in almost the same terminology as the statement of resignation issued by Fortuny and the nine other "PARistas" on 25 May 1950, although not quite so clearly labeling the writers as Communists.
3. [Redacted] the party which this organizing committee is founding is the same "vanguard workers party" which Fortuny referred to in his statement of resignation from PAR. [Redacted] Fortuny is aiding Gutierrez in the organization of this party.
4. It is interesting to note, however, that according to La Hora of 2 June 1950, when Antonio Obando Sanchez delivered to that newspaper a copy of the manifesto announcing the organization of PROG, he stated that the new party would be different from that to which Fortuny had referred in that the party would be nationalistic.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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7. On 7 June 1950 La Hora stated that it had been informed by Victor Manuel Gutierrez that PROG contemplated a vast plan of civic and social training among its affiliates and that in this connection they would hold meetings in factories, labor unions, and in various districts of the city. Gutierrez stated that before a person would be admitted into the party, he would be required to present a statement of past services so that opportunistic elements would not be admitted into the party. He also stated that PROG would have long-term objectives and looked forward to a period, probably within the next 10 years, when the working class of Guatemala would have acquired a class consciousness. La Hora also stated that Gutierrez said on this occasion that the new party had not yet considered whether it would aid any certain candidate in the coming presidential elections.

8. Another development possibly indicating the future course PROG will take is a resolution issued at a meeting called by Gutierrez on 6 June 1950 of all CTG unions of employees of various branches of the government. The resolution stated that these unions would henceforth be independent of the government and of all political parties and would no longer accept subsidies from the government. 25X1

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